

**U.S. Department of
Homeland Security**

**United States
Coast Guard**



Federal On-Scene Coordinator
Unified Area Command

Shell Robert Training & Conf. Center
23260 Shell Lane
Robert, LA 70455

June 8, 2010

Doug Suttles
Chief Operating Officer
Exploration & Production
BP America Inc.
501 WestLake Park Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77079

Re: Maximizing Discharge Recovery From the Source

The discharge of oil from the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill is unprecedented in American history. This crisis has resulted in devastating damages to the economic, environmental, social interests of every community in the Gulf Coast and the nation as a whole. Despite the massive commitment of Federal and state resources to respond to this disaster, the Macondo 252 well has discharged millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, for which BP is a Responsible Party.

Now that the so-called "top hat" containment system has begun to capture and recover some of the oil escaping from the wellhead, it is imperative that you put equipment, systems and processes in place to ensure that the remaining oil and gas flowing can be recovered, taking into account safety, environmental and meteorological factors.

Based upon the foregoing, and in my capacity as Federal On Scene Coordinator, I am instructing BP to establish system(s) capable of safely collecting the oil and gas flowing from the Macondo 252 well. The system(s) established must have appropriate redundancies to maintain complete collection rates in the event that operational problems are encountered in any part of the system. For example, if multiple oil recovery vessels are employed for collection/recovery efforts, redundancies must ensure that the failure of a vessel(s) does not reduce the capacity of the system for continuous recovery of oil. There should be no interruptions of the recovery effort while awaiting another recovery vessel to arrive on scene. Further, plans and processes must be put into place to ensure that, in the event that a hurricane or other severe weather causes recovery vessels to go off station, those vessels (or alternate vessels) can be brought back on station as quickly as possible after the storm passes and that collection efforts can resume without delay.

BP shall provide the plans for these parallel, continuous, and contingency collection processes, including an implementation timeline, within 72 hours of receiving this letter. Current collection efforts may not be interrupted to implement these plans.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. WATSON

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Federal On-Scene Coordinator